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Letter dated 23 June 2008 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

With reference to Security Council resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005), 1722 (2006) and 1785 (2007) I have the honour to convey to you the attached letter dated 16 June 2008 which I received from the Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union, transmitting a report on the activities of the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The report covers the period from 1 March to 31 May 2008.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

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Annex

Letter dated 16 June 2008 from the Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union to the Secretary-General of the United Nations

In accordance with the provisions of United Nations Security Council resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005), 1722 (2006) and 1785 (2007), I attach the fourteenth three-monthly report on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR). The report covers the period from 1 March to 31 May 2008. I should be grateful if you would transmit this report to the President of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Javier **Solana**

Enclosure

Report by the Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union on the activities of the European Union Military Mission (EUFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)

I. Introduction

1. This report covers the period 1 March to 31 May 2008.

2. United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005), 1722 (2006) and 1785 (2007) request that Member States, acting through or in co-operation with the EU, report to the Council on the activities of EUFOR, through the appropriate channels and at least at three monthly intervals. This document is the fourteenth such report.

II. Political Background

3. The BiH Parliament adopted two laws on police reform on 16 April. This proved sufficient for the EU Special Representative (EUSR) and the Head of the EU Police Mission (EUPM) to forward a positive assessment of the laws to the European Commission. On 29 April the Council of the European Union welcomed the conclusion of this first phase of police reform in BiH and recalled that agreement on this in line with the EU's three principles was one of the necessary conditions for further progress towards the conclusion of the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA). The Council acknowledged BiH's progress on all four conditions for signing the SAA as set out in the Council conclusions of 12 December 2005. While BiH needed to undertake further efforts to address reforms, the Council expressed its readiness to sign the SAA. Preparations are under way for signature on 16 June.

4. In late March, State, Federation and Republika Srpska (RS) representatives signed the required transfer agreement granting the state full ownership rights over movable defence property (including weapons, ammunition, and explosives). This contributed to NATO, at its Summit in Bucharest on 3 April, inviting BiH to begin an Intensified Dialogue on the full range of political, military, financial, and security issues relating to its aspirations for NATO membership, without prejudice to any eventual Alliance decision.

5. A potentially major crisis on the matter of elected representation in Srebrenica was averted by local parties adopting amendments to the Election Law of BiH that will allow all those who were resident in Srebrenica in 1991 to have the option of casting votes for that municipality (irrespective of their Displaced Person status) in the 2008 municipal elections. Also on elections, the RS Government withdrew a proposal to revert to indirect election of mayors in the RS after questions were raised domestically and by international organizations. However, negative rhetoric began to re-emerge towards the end of the reporting period, as the municipal election campaign began in earnest.

III. Security situation and EUFOR activities

6. The overall security situation in BiH remained calm and stable throughout the reporting period. Although there were some demonstrations linked to the Kosovo declaration of independence, they were handled effectively by local police. EUFOR was not requested to assist, but remained ready to do so if necessary. The outcome of the elections in Serbia did not lead to disturbances in BiH. Nationalistic rhetoric continues in BiH, but has had no impact on the safe and secure environment. EUFOR continues closely to monitor the overall security situation.

7. The current force of some 2,500 EUFOR troops is concentrated in Sarajevo, with liaison and observation teams deployed throughout BiH. EUFOR continues to conduct operations in line with its mandate: providing deterrence; ensuring continued compliance in relation to the responsibilities specified in the General Framework Agreement for Peace, Annexes 1a and 2; and contributing to a safe and secure environment. EUFOR continues to support the BiH law enforcement agencies in fighting organized crime in close cooperation with EUPM; and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in the search for Persons Indicted for War Crimes (PIFWCs).

8. In the reporting period EUFOR, on behalf of the ICTY and supported by local police, intensified search operations against the Radovan Karadzic support network, and other persons suspected of supporting the network, to find material or information which could assist the ICTY with the search and capture of persons indicted by the Hague Tribunal. On 30 May, the High Representative, Miroslav Lajčák, acting in coordination with the ICTY and BiH security agencies, ordered BiH law enforcement agencies to seize the travel documents of 16 individuals linked to ICTY indictee Stojan Župljanin. In a related development, and after consultation with the ICTY Chief Prosecutor, the High Representative removed Predrag

Ostanic from his post in the BiH Intelligence and Security Agency.

9. There was further progress during the reporting period in the area of Joint Military Affairs. In April, EUFOR certified Armed Forces BiH (AF BiH) Internal Inspection Team members for the inspection of Weapons and Ammunition Storage sites, in order to reinforce BiH capabilities to carry out inspections independently. In May, EUFOR and the AF BiH signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of a management and inspection system at Ammunition Storage sites, for which the AF BiH has taken over sole responsibility. By the end of May, and in line with the AF BiH annual inspection roster, joint teams had inspected more than 22,000 out of 36,000 tonnes of munitions.

10. As previously reported, EUFOR transferred responsibility to the BiH authorities in January 2008 for the control of the movement of military weapons and ammunition. EUFOR continues to monitor and support the implementation of these responsibilities. As for Civilian Movement Control (control of the movement of weapons and ammunition by BiH contractors), EUFOR has made the necessary technical preparations and is ready to hand over responsibility once the necessary legislation has been adopted and suitable arrangements have been established by the BiH authorities.

11. During the reporting period, EUFOR and AF BiH further developed combined training. AF BiH started company-level training in early April. In line with the common training schedule, AF BiH participated in a MAPEX. In May, EUFOR expanded military training for AF BiH to include specialist training such as First Aid and Emergency.

IV. Outlook

The security situation is expected to remain stable despite the prospects of continuing political tension.